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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIGONIER NATIVE KRISTIN MILLER NAMED COORDINATOR OF SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY

Ligonier – Visitors to the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley may recognize a familiar face leading the Museum. Kristin Miller, a life-long resident of Ligonier and former SAMA receptionist, was named Site Coordinator of the Museum. She assumed her new position January 3.

Art has always been an important part of Miller’s life, dating back to a childhood that was filled with art camps and lessons. As a teenager she developed a passion for photography upon receiving a Kodak 35mm camera as a birthday gift. She continued to pursue art classes while a student at Ligonier Valley High School and Seton Hill University.

“Art is a vital part of our culture,” said Miller. “It’s an integral part of human expression and really makes us who we are. I’m so excited for the opportunity to work in a fine arts setting every day. Art allows us to come together and share those pieces of ourselves that bring about self-expression, and the museum setting helps to facilitate that creative outlet.”

Miller graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. from Seton Hill University and later returned to the University to obtain a Master’s in special education. Miller has worked extensively in the field of education, beginning with a position as elementary school teacher at Holy Trinity. While there she developed and helped to implement a fine arts and music program for the school that was utilized until the school’s recent closing. She later spent six years with Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 as an autistic support teacher in Cambria and Somerset counties and worked in a similar role at Windber Area School District. She also has taught at the university level, having served as an adjunct professor in the education department at Seton Hill. In 2014, she joined SAMA-Ligonier Valley as a receptionist.

Miller’s new position at SAMA comes at an exciting time, as the Ligonier Valley Museum is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2017. Throughout the year, the Museum will host a variety of programs including the annual Night of Distinction and Garden Party events, guest speakers, art classes and painting contests before culminating in September with a family day open house.

“I am so very excited to be a part of the SAMA family, especially at such a momentous time,” she said. “As we celebrate the Museum’s 20-year milestone in 2017, I am most impressed

with what SAMA has been able to accomplish over these years. I am truly honored to be a part of what lies ahead for the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley.”

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is located at One Boucher Lane and Route 711 South in Ligonier. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the Museum at (724) 238-6015 or visit www.sama-art.org.